

## ARTICLE I

### MEMBERSHIP

Both salvation and believer's baptism are required for church membership. Believer's baptism is defined as baptism by immersion after conversion, as a visible testimony to the saving work of Christ through His death on the cross, His burial, and His resurrection from the dead (see Romans 6:3-4). While baptism is not necessary for salvation, it is an act of obedience for new believers.

In order to be accepted as a member of the Marietta First Baptist Church, one must subscribe to the faith and practices of the church. Therefore, persons desiring membership shall enter into covenant together with the congregation. Persons may request membership into the church in the following ways:

1. Upon receiving the Lord Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior through repentance of sin and faith in Him alone and upon public profession of their faith through believer's baptism.
2. Upon transfer of letter. This means that a person is a member of another Southern Baptist church and desires to transfer membership from that church to Marietta First Baptist. Upon receipt of a letter from the person's former church that states that person is a member in good standing and is recommended for membership through the granting of a letter.
3. By statement, wherein a person has been saved, was baptized after salvation by immersion and has been a member of a Southern Baptist church (or one of like faith and order). This includes persons who were Southern Baptists, moved their membership to another denomination, and now desire to unite with Marietta First Baptist Church. This would also apply to a Southern Baptist church whose membership records have been lost.
4. Those requesting membership who meet one of above requirements, may do so during any regular meeting of the church. The request will be shared with the congregation. **As soon as possible, prospective members will meet with a pastoral staff member, will be advised of the mission direction of the church, and will complete the new member orientation course (*Discovery New Member's Class*).** If extenuating circumstances prohibit participation in the new member's class, the staff will make arrangements for the orientation. Following orientation, the prospective member will be given opportunity to sign a membership card indicating their acceptance and commitment to the mission, covenant, and doctrinal statements of the church. Prospective members will then be presented to the church for affirmation of their membership request.